

The AMERICAN RIVER WATER EDUCATION CENTER *At Folsom Dam*

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American River Water Education Center

The history and headwaters of the American River Watershed are explored through interactive exhibits which focus on this integral part of California's waterworks. Find out where the American River actually starts. Discover just how much water is needed to make a pair of jeans or grow a tomato. Water management and conservation are critical issues today and are stressed with fun 'hands on' demonstration areas and displays. A section on Folsom Dam explains why it was built, its dynamic history over the past 50+ years and the dam's many uses.

Water Wise Garden

Come and enjoy our newly planted drought tolerant garden. Native species, low water use and drought tolerant trees, flowers and grasses are just some of the attractions featured in the center's landscape design. Best management practices are used and displayed. The American River Parkway Bike Trail sits adjacent to the grounds. Garden tours are also available upon request.

Programs

Free group programs at the American River Water Education Center are available by reservation. Learn about the American River watershed, water conservation and Folsom Dam during a session at the sand table, hanging out in our 'house', or by taking a walk through the canyon. Your program may include a tour of the center, a session in the schoolhouse, a presentation on Folsom Dam and power plant with a glimpse of the dam.

Please schedule as early as possible. The classroom at the Water Education Center is also available for group meetings and gatherings. Special program times may be available. Programs are tailored to fit individual



group types. School programs that correlate to California standards by grade level are offered. Water related programs are also offered to scout and church groups, clubs, visiting public and any other type group that wants to learn more about one of our most precious resources — water.

The mission of the American River Water Education Center is to increase the public's knowledge of the American River watershed - both the natural features and human interactions within the watershed. Emphasis is placed on increasing the public's understanding of the water cycle and watersheds, and on how individuals can actively participate in resource conservation and on Folsom Dam's multiple roles in meeting the needs of urban, industrial, agricultural and natural systems.

SUGGESTION: Photocopy this page and send home with students prior to fieldtrip.

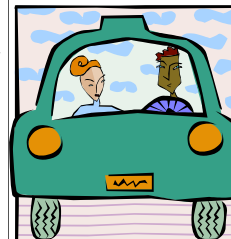


All reservations are on a first come—first serve basis. Separate reservations must be made for each formal program at the Water Education Center. Coordination will be done through the program office. Schedule early in the school year.

Group size = Everybody going on tour! Please let tour office know if you have a change in the amount people originally scheduled to come out.

Our **parking lot** can accommodate a large number of vehicles, but we ask that you carpool as much as possible. This will prevent overcrowding and is just plain better for our environment! Please let your bus driver know that there is a designated **bus parking area**. One of our staff will probably be in the parking lot to assist.

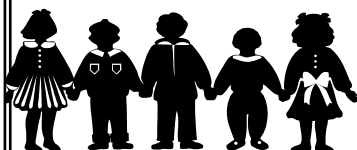
PLEASE NOTE: This year, busses and private vehicles will be used to shuttle students to Beal's Point so drivers will need to stay with tour group for the entire field trip.



Best time to call the program office to schedule a program or reserve the classroom is between 8 am & 10 am or after 2 pm, Monday through Friday. **To cancel** your program please call, as soon as possible. This will open a spot for another group.

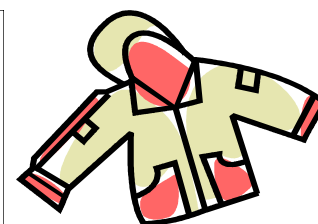
If you are going to be late, please call office at (916)989-7132 to let us know, as we will be waiting for you. **Be sure your whole group has arrived** before checking in at program office.

Arrival Time is important! Please do **not** be **too early or too late**.



Keep children under control at ALL times during your visit. We expect the adult chaperones to handle all minor and major discipline situations.

Dress appropriately for the weather. Hats, jackets and rain gear are recommended for those possible rainy days. You may choose to cancel and reschedule your program. Closed-toed shoes are recommended during the summer months. Programs at the Water Education Center can be adapted to mostly indoors on bad weather days.



Picnic tables are available for use on the Water Education Center grounds. Bring your lunches and drinks with you as there are no soda or vending machines.

Students and visitors are welcome to bring cameras and binoculars for the lake program. We do ask that cell phones and other electronics are turned off during formal programs.

